Over charging by PCOs

†*364. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that PCOs in the country are charging at old rates even now;

(b) if so, whether Government are going to take any steps to check this; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) A few cases have come to the notice where PCO booth operators were found using locally programmed charge indicators which is not permitted, which could have led to overcharging. Instructions have been issued to field units to carry out surprise checks of PCOs to ensure that PCO operators do not over charge the customers. Action, including disconnection, is taken against defaulters.

Transit of foodgrains

†*365. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the agriculture experts have demanded Government for immediate repeal of the Essentia' Commodities Act, with a view to providing for unhindered transit of foodgrains in the country;

(b) whether such demands had also been made previously;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for not repealing the same; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.